

MIDWAY 1997

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**MIDWAY SWISS DAYS 1997  
AUGUST 29-30**

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# Swiss Days Honored Citizens



The honored citizens for this year's Swiss Days are Eugene and Shirley Owens who reside at 75 South 200 East. They came to Midway in 1975, because the small town rural atmosphere suited their life style. They are the parents of four children, one girl and three boys, 15 grandchildren and one brand new great grandchild. They call them their jewels. Family is the most important thing in their lives.

Gene was born in the small farming community of Oasis, Utah. He was number seven in a family consisting of a father, mother, four brothers and five sisters, two of which died in infancy. When he was eight-years-old the family moved seven miles away to Delta, Utah. Daily scripture reading and family prayer was a way of life for them. He has always had great respect for his family.

As a boy growing up on the farm, during the depression, he participated in all the chores and labors that were a part of farm life. As a very young man Gene worked in the mines in Ely, Nevada and as a fireman for the Union Pacific Railroad. No job was too menial for Gene and whatever he did, he did well. Through the years he taught his family to do things right.

He always believed anything worth doing was worth doing well.

Gene attended school in Deseret, Delta, Provo Trade Tech and the school of life. He has gained much knowledge through experience.

Shirley was born in Springville, Utah and raised in Idaho. She had one sister and five brothers to mother and boss her around. One sister died as an infant. She attended Butte County Public Schools in Idaho and LDS Business College in Salt Lake City. During her high school years she worked for Mountain States Tel. and Tel. From December 1942 until November 1946 she worked for Bamberger Railroad in Salt Lake City. Here she was "froze" on her job because railroads were a vital war industry. As children grew up and financial demands were greater Shirley went to work for First Security Bank in Delta transferring later to Provo and then on to Heber City, where she completed 29 years of bank service.

Horses and hunting are two of Gene's avocations. When the family moved to Delta, Gene would ride his horse to Oasis to milk the cows and do whatever other chores needed doing. He loved taking the horses and

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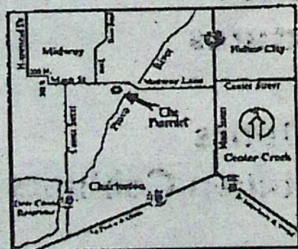
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going hunting with his Dad, brothers, sons and friends. They all loved the outdoors and enjoyed camping whenever possible.

When his country needed him he enlisted in the Navy and served for 36 months, 11 of them being on the Island of Attu in the Aleutian Islands and another 18 months on the Island of Guam in the South Pacific. On Attu they built airplane hangers and landing strips and in Guam he worked in the cat shop and built more air landing strips. Three of his brothers also answered their country's call.

Because he loved the rich fertile soil, of which he feels a closeness too, Gene bought a farm when he came home from the service. When the time came to move off the farm, he had years of experience in construction. All his life he has built and remodeled homes, schools, hospitals, institutes of religion, various commercial buildings, seminaries, and many churches throughout Utah, Washington, California, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, and Missouri.

Their church has been a big part of both Gene and Shirley's life. They have served in many capacities throughout the years in both wards and stakes. They have both been active in their communities doing whatever was asked such as secretary in the PTA serving as a Room Mother, Cub Scout Den Mother, Scouting,

American Legion, 4H Club, High School Rodeo, Days of The Old West Committee, Riding Club etc., in Millard County. They have served willingly and diligently. For the past 22 years they have been active promoters for Midway City. Gene has served on the Board of Adjustments, Planning Commission and the City Council. With Lowell Johnson, and Ken Johnson he worked extremely long hours with the Swiss Days Committee in order to raise money to help build the Midway 1st & 2nd Ward Building. Every year after it was built, he put in his time and efforts wrapping meat and firing the pit for the barbecue, setting up tents, tearing down tents and on and on.

Shirley loves her great American patriot ancestry and her Mormon pioneer heritage and enjoys digging into histories of them. One day each week she serves at the Family History Center. Her ancestry is mostly English, with a little French. Gene's paternal grandfather came from Wales and his maternal ancestry is German. Both Gene and Shirley had grandparents that walked across the plains at very young ages and made contributions to this great land we live in.

They are both God fearing people with a great capacity for living and find joy in the simple things of life. Friends and family are among their great treasures.

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# For the Sorensens, Music is a Family Affair

by Melissa O'Brien

• Playing should be a habit, just like brushing your teeth

A family that plays together, stays together. For the Sorensen family of Oakley this adage is more than just a simple saying, it's a way of life. According to parents Howard and Lisa Sorensen and kids, Rob, 16, Peter, 14, Jake, 13, Anne, 10 and Jane 8, music is as much a part of their every day routine as brushing their teeth.

"I started all the kids playing at age three-and-a-half," said Lisa.

The musical roots of the Sorensen family run deep. Lisa grew up playing and performing violin, eventually attending the University of Utah's School of Music for two years. She also trained to teach Suzuki violin. For Howard, exposure to music was somewhat unavoidable. As one in a family of eleven children, he, according to Lisa, "wormed his way out of a classical background in music," but sang in a quartet with one brother and two sisters for several years.

Rob was started on the suzuki violin, Jake on the cello and Peter on the piano. But soon after the boys learned the basics of classical music, Lisa said, she and Howard decided it was time to teach the boys a different style of music that they could use and enjoy more. Four years ago, they formed the Sorensen Family Bluegrass Band.

"The piano, celjo and violin were traded for a banjō, mandolin and guitar," Lisa said.

The family now performs regularly at weddings and private parties, with a few public functions like Swiss Days in Heber City and the Utah State Fair in between. Lisa said performing in Park City has been especially beneficial to the children, giving them exposure they would never have in Oakley. And the concept of playing for money has gotten very attractive to the children, particularly as they have become older and realized how few opportunities for summer employment exist in Oakley. The Summit County Fair was the family's last public engagement.



The Sorensen Family Bluegrass Band, from left to right, Howard, Lisa, Jake, Peter, Anne and Jane.

SCOTT SINE

Their next performance is at Midway's Swiss Days.

One musical challenge the Sorensens have faced over the past couple of years is puberty. Lisa said almost every summer they have to do something different — in terms of who sings what — because of the way the children's voices change from year to year. It's a problem she says they will probably face for at least another couple of years, as most of the children have yet to reach adolescence.

Although music isn't the Sorensens' only interest, it does permeate almost every aspect of their lives.

"We like to do a lot of river-rafting, and we recently had dry bags custom made to carry our instruments on the river," Lisa said.

But, contrary as it may seem, the family's road to musical harmony hasn't always been paved with natural talent and a willingness to learn. Although, the Sorensen kids love music and the challenge of performing, "there have been many tears along the way," Lisa said.

"I'm always approached by parents who ask me how I get them to practice," Lisa said.

As parents, she explained, there comes a time when you have to make decisions for your children that they might not particularly like, but you know is best for them, and that they will appreciate later in life. Howard and Lisa have introduced music into their children's lives as creatively as possible by giving instruments for birthdays and Christmas. They have also been smart enough to rely on outside instruction to direct the children's musical education, knowing that if Mom or Dad were the teachers, it would be too easy to put off practice.

Another characteristic of the young family members is the variety of opinions that need to be taken into account.

"Now that the boys are teenagers, every decision we make as a family becomes this big diplomatic process and we have to be very careful to listen to everyone's opinion before we make a decision," Lisa said.

But along with their enthusiasm for music, Lisa and Howard have taught their children realism about the genre.

"Music is a very hard course of study, and most of the time, there's not a lot of payoff at the end of that road," Lisa said.

She gave the example of one of her son's violin teachers who formerly played for the Utah Symphony, and because of job instability, quit to pursue a law degree.

"He was told every day he went into work that there may not be a job for him the next day. Nobody can live their life like that," Lisa said.

Although all the children have future college plans, they would like to make music part of their livelihood without having to travel all over the country from performance to performance. Lisa said the boys would like to open a restaurant like the Bar J, a dinner-theater in Jackson, Wyo.

"At least then they could still perform but the audiences will come to them and they could still have a normal life," Lisa said.



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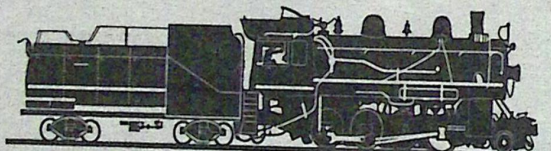
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# Swiss Days Benefits Community

**As Greased Poles Give Way  
to the Growth of Midway  
City's Annual Swiss Days,  
the Spirit of the Event Has  
Not Changed...**

Swiss Days has come a long way from its days of foot-races, pig chases and greased poles. Few could have known that what once started-out as a simple way of getting together and having some good, "clean" fun, would become one of the single largest fund raising activities in Wasatch County.

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Swiss Days, we can look at how the event has grown from a small town community celebration, to a civic event that benefits nearly everyone in the Heber Valley. Swiss Days is dedicated to making a difference in Midway and surrounding areas.

The first Swiss Days brought in less than \$500. Even though the amount was small, the funds went right back into the community. "Every penny that comes from Swiss Days goes back into the community," says Midway Booster Club treasurer Curt Giles. "It always



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has been that way and always will be that way."

Some of the donations can be seen in a major way. Just ask students at Midway Elementary how much fun their new playground equipment is. The new play area was a \$15,000-\$20,000 dollar project. The majority of the funding coming from Swiss Days via the Midway Booster Club.

Some donations from Swiss Days go completely unseen. Swiss Days funds have been used each year in setting-up and maintaining a scholarship fund for Midway graduates of Wasatch High School. Hundreds of dollars go toward Wasatch High School graduation exercises each year. Also, many senior class trips have been helped by the Midway Booster Club.

Around Midway, the Midway Social Hall is getting a much needed restoration. This summer, Swiss Days played a major role in giving the Midway Ceme-

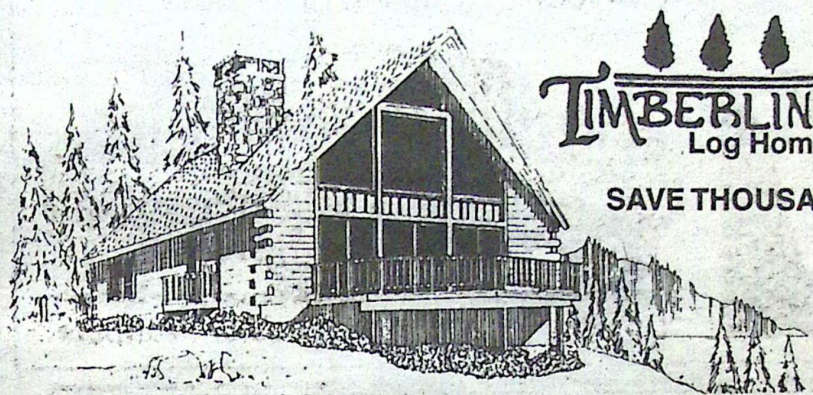
tery a face lift. Nearly \$5,000 went towards benches, flowers and landscaping improvements at the cemetery. Nearly \$15,000 has been donated to the preservation of the Snake Creek Canyon area. Swiss Days also helps in decorating the streets during Christmas and other holidays.

While Swiss Days has grown from a small afternoon event to a major, nearly week-long extravaganza the spirit of Swiss Days is the same now as it has always been—giving back to the community for all the community gives to Swiss Days.

This year as you wander by the booths and admire the various craft-work, or sit and enjoy the entertainment around you, think of all the wonderful things that Swiss Days will play a part in creating and funding for Midway and the local area. Swiss Days truly is a benefit to us all.



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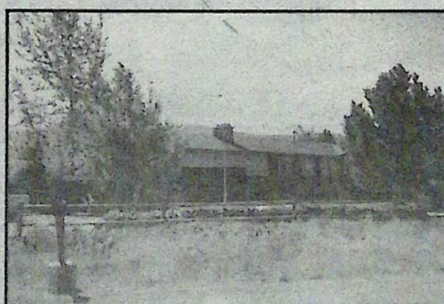


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Left to right: Kelsi Jo Remund, Jessica Milligan, Melissa Holm, Whitney Kohler, Amber Keller

**Swiss Miss, Melissa Ann Holm** is the daughter of Mike and René Holm. She is the second oldest in her family with one older brother and two younger sisters. Melissa has a dynamic personality, she knows what she wants out of life and she is willing to work hard to obtain it, but she never has a hard time having fun either. Melissa stays very busy with a variety of interests: piano, softball, horseback riding, hiking, snow skiing and gathering and identifying wild flowers, but her passion is dance. Melissa has been dancing with the University of Utah's Creative Dance Theater for seven years. Each year the theater prepares a major concert which is performed at the Capital Theater, as well as other various schools and universities. This has been a great experience for Melissa. Melissa feels privileged to live in this beautiful area and to represent Midway as 1997's Swiss Miss.

**1st Attendant, Jessica Milligan** is the daughter of David and Leona Milligan. Jessica is twelve years old and will be in seventh grade at Wasatch Middle School where she has been an Honor Student. Jessica is the youngest in her family and has two older brothers. She loves to sing, camp, hike, ride her bike, rollerblade, play football, volleyball and basketball. Jessica's favorite weekend activities are boating with her family, fishing and swimming. Jessica has a great personality and a terrific sense of humor. She is proud to be a representative of Midway and is enjoying her year as a Swiss Miss Attendant.

**Whitney Kohler** is the daughter of Grant and Caralee Kohler. She is eleven years old and the second of five children. Whitney will be in sixth

grade and attending Wasatch Middle School this fall. Singing is one of her favorite past times along with dancing and playing the piano. She has a fun personality with a warm cheerful smile. Whitney spends many hours helping her family on the three generation family farm, which was the homestead of her Swiss ancestors. She is excited to be representing Midway in the Swiss Miss Royalty.

**Kelsi Jo Remund** is the daughter of Roy and Martha Remund. She is 11 years old and will be entering 6th grade this fall. She has spent her life on the family dairy farm where she feeds calves, helps during hay season, drives tractor and changes sprinklers. She has a great love for music and enjoys playing the piano and singing duets with her sister. She is involved in most sports, but her favorites are basketball and softball. Kelsi has a wonderful sense of humor and it shows in her mischievous smile. Having grown up on a fifth generation family dairy farm, Kelsi is very proud to represent Midway in the Swiss Miss Royalty.

**Amber Keller** is the daughter of Jon and Judy Keller. She is ten years old and loves to dance, swim, camp, read and play sports. She is a student of the Children's Ballet Conservatory, having studied there for four years. She has also participated in the Girl Scout program for three years. Amber is excited and appreciative of the opportunity to represent Midway this year.

*This 1997 Swiss Miss Royalty would like to thank the Midway Boosters for providing them with this wonderful opportunity to represent Midway!*



# Glockenspiel at the Midway Town Hall

As part of the town's Swiss theme, residents have built and installed in their Bavarian-style Town Hall, a Glockenspiel, weighing 500 pounds, featuring five dancing figures and valued at \$35,000.

Literally translated, Glockenspiel means "bell music," but former Midway Mayor Gene Probst explained "glock" also means "clock" and "spiel" designates "all the rest of it."

The "rest of it" traditionally includes music and figures that dance or twirl when the clock strikes certain times. The Midway Glockenspiel incorporates all the tradition of the Glockenspiels found around Switzerland.

Five 36-inch figures rotate on small platforms. They circle around on a 40-inch diameter turntable. The mechanism is electronically synchronized with a 48 inch clock above it with a computer program. It is operated by a 40-channel remote control garage door opener.

When the clock strikes the hour, a pair of doors, four feet wide by 52 inches tall, open. The platform exits and turns while the figures twirl to Swiss music. After three minutes, it retreats and the doors shut until the next hour.

Soft floodlights will light the Glockenspiel at night. When the clock strikes the hour, the lights will go to full power, then dim when the performance is over.

Dollmaker, Erla Young, who teaches art at Brigham Young University, designed the dolls by combining bits and pieces of lathed



wood. A woodworker, Larry O'Driscoll, made most of them as samples of balusters, the ornate rails that hold up banisters. He had discarded them and Mrs. Young rummaged through the pile, rescuing arms, legs, torsos, and heads for her little "people."

Under her direction, Jack Angus put them together without screws, using only glue and dowels to create the figures.

Mrs. Young painted and clothed them with Swiss costumes, which are partly authentic and partly stylized. "We decided to go for the Pinocchio kind of approach—kind of whimsical—in keeping with the character of the materials," explained Fran Anderson, project chairman.

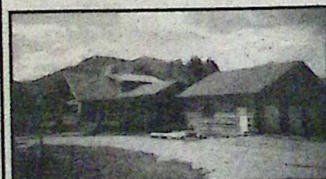
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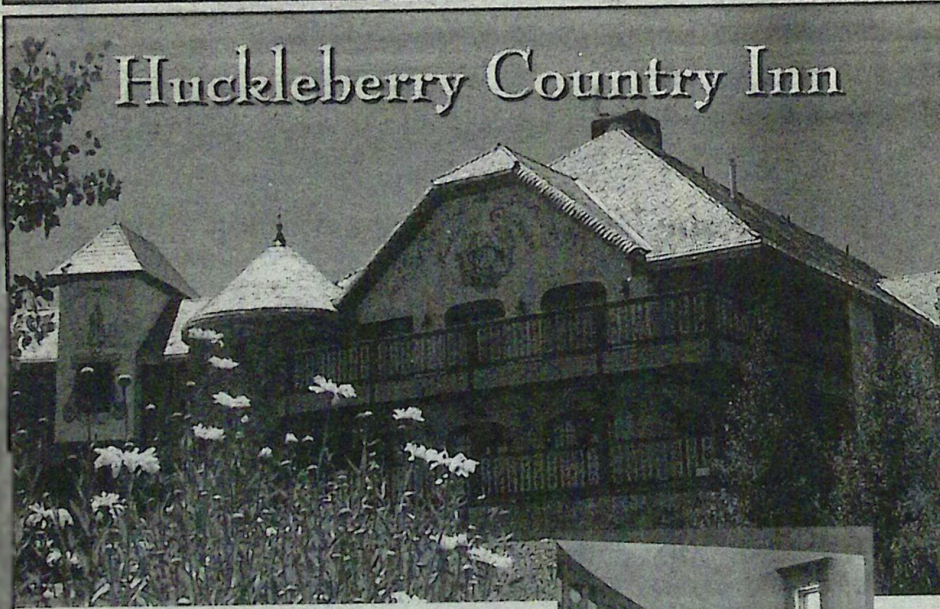
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# Town Square Even

Friday, August 29

M.C.'s Cass Ho

- 9:30 *Deonn & The Blondes* ..... Vocal Quartet
- 10:00 *Rick Schwemmer* ..... Accordionist
- 10:30 *Alex Schmaltz* ..... Alp Horn Player
- 11:00 *German Lyric Singers* ..... Students of Rebecca Dimick  
Accompaniment - Diane Carter
- 11:45 *Swiss Chorus Sampler* ..... Directed by Marilyn Urry  
Accompaniment - Marilyn Larsen
- 12:00 *Rick Schwemmer*
- 12:30 *Alex Schmaltz*
- 1:00 *Kerry Christensen* ..... Yodeler
- 1:30 *Swiss Miss Royalty*
- 2:00 *Gabrielle Gordon* ..... Miss Wasatch  
*Emily Holmes* ..... 1st Attendant  
*Andrea Latimer* ..... 2nd Attendant
- 2:15 *The Sorenson Family* ..... Country Music
- 3:00 *Kerry Christensen*
- 3:30 *Swiss Children's Chorus*... Directed by Laurel Matheny  
Accompaniment - Gundalee Dodge
- 4:00 *Alex Schmaltz*
- 4:30 *Blain Brown* ..... Country Music
- 5:00 *Kerry Christensen*

## TOWN HALL

- 1:00 *William Tell* ..... Presented by  
Midway Elementary School
- 2:30 *Swiss Handbell Ringers* ..... \$2.00 admission  
Directed by Britt Wilde
- 4:30 *Swiss Handbell Ringers*
- 7:00 *Swiss Chorus Musical* ..... \$3.00 adults/  
\$2.00 children 12 & under
- 9:30 *Teen Dance*

## Parade

6:00 p.m. Friday & 10:00 a.m. Saturday

**Heidi Puppet Show** ... Upstairs Town Hall (50¢)

## Swiss Chorus Musical

**"50 Year Birthday Bash"**

Thursday, 7:00 p.m. (preview)

Friday & Saturday, 7:00 p.m.

Midway Town Hall

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# s and Entertainment

Midway Swiss Days 1997 11

Ken McConnell

Saturday, August 30

- 7:00 **CHUCKWAGON BREAKFAST**, \$4.00 adults/  
\$2.00 12 & under
- 8:00 **10K Run** ..... pre-register 654-0921 - entry fee \$10.00
- 8:00 **Alex Schmaltz** ..... Alp Horn Player
- 8:30 **Faith's Songbirds** ..... Children's Chorus  
Directed by Faith Johnson
- 8:45 **Al Kohler** ..... Tenor
- 9:00 **Echo Mountain** ..... Performing Group  
Clogging and Ethnic Dance
- 11:30 **Swiss Children's Chorus**
- 12:00 **German Lyric Singing**
- 12:45 **Swiss Chorus Sampler**
- 1:00 **Kerry Christensen**
- 1:30 **Swiss Miss Royalty**
- 2:00 **Proud to Present Hour** ..... Local Talent  
Andrew Grose & Britny Robertson, Josh & Jana Provost  
LynDee Probst  
Gabrielle Gordon ..... Miss Wasatch  
Emily Holmes ..... 1st Attendant  
Andrea Latimer ..... 2nd Attendant
- 3:00 **Kerry Christensen**
- 3:30 **Echo Mountain** ..... Performing Group
- 4:00 **BARBECUE BEEF DINNER** ..... \$6.00 adults/  
\$2.00 12 & under
- 4:00 **Alex Schmaltz**
- 4:30 **Deonn & The Blondes**
- 5:00 **Kerry Christensen**

## EVENTS

- 11:00 **Salt Lake Letter Carriers Band**
- 1:00 **William Tell**
- 2:00 **Swiss Chorus Edelweiss**
- 3:30 **Swiss Handbell Ringers**
- 7:00 **Swiss Chorus Musical**

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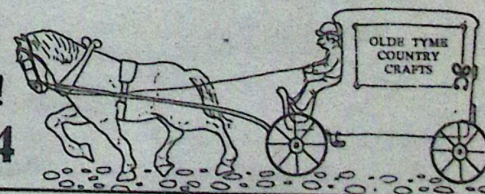
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# A Fiftieth Anniversary Tribute to Midway Swiss Days

By Mari Jorgensen

This year's annual "Swiss Days" event in Midway, Utah marks the fiftieth anniversary since the town's first Labor Day weekend celebration held in 1947. Originally called the "Harvest Festival," Swiss Days started out as a coming together of Midway's townspeople to participate in a day of picnicking, rodeoing, and games—including a greased pig chase and greased pole climbing. In 1953, the celebration was renamed Midway Swiss Days in commemoration of the number of Swiss immigrants who, after joining the L D S Church, immigrated to America and helped to settle the Heber valley. Today, Swiss Days is one of Utah's largest celebrations attracting more than 70,000 visitors and participants from every corner of the state and elsewhere in the nation.

This year's Swiss Days celebration boasts, among the usual offerings of food, festivities, and spectacles, a parade down Main Street headed by L.D.S. general authority Thomas S. Monson. There will also be a juried arts and craft show that includes 200 participants and is reputed to be one of the finest in the state, hourly entertainment (including local accordion player

and yodeler Kerry Christensen), and 300 pounds of home-pounded sour kraut.

"This is a family celebration," says Midway Mayor Stevan Ridge. "People call us 'Little Switzerland,' but unlike most Bavarian celebrations, we won't be offering a beer garden."

Nestled against the impressive Wasatch mountain range and with its open expanses of cattle grazing land and various Swiss-style structures, the city of Midway does indeed resemble an alpine village. This picturesque valley, however, like many rural areas in Utah,

has been experiencing acute growing pains for the past few years. "Two or three years ago we had a problem with development," says Mayor Ridge. "It was too aggressive. Most land in Midway has been in the family for generations and we were rationing water at that time, so this heightened everyone's sense that their way of life would be threatened or destroyed."

*"This is a family celebration," says Midway Mayor Stevan Ridge. "People call us 'Little Switzerland,' ....*

Ridge says that many of these differences have since been alleviated with the help of the Midway Irrigation Company, which reviews all potential development. "This problem is not unique to Midway," says Ridge. "It's a small town problem. But we're not rationing water now. Developers are

now required to bring in their own water and this has helped to put a damper on this 'feeding frenzy' of development." A planning committee (which includes internationally known painter and Midway resident Robert Duncan) currently reviews all requests for development and allows for

only two-and-a-half to three-and-a-half dwelling units per acre. Ridge says that the zoning ordinances have been "toughened up" in Midway and that, although the conflict between development and capital versus a rural way of life and a land ethic still exists, he is optimistic that Midway's citizens will be able to settle their differences and move forward.

One step towards building relationships with the valley's outsiders occurred during last year's Swiss Days celebration. Former Midway Mayor Gene Probst was the one to first suggest creating a "sister-city" relationship with a town in Switzerland, but it was Midway's current mayor, Stevan Ridge, who, along with Zermatt resort developer Robert Fuller and others, put Probst's idea into action. Probst had already chosen a potential Sister-city, Trubschachen, and Ridge contacted that city's mayor, Hans Soltermann. With about 1,700 full-time residents, Trubschachen is similar in size to Midway and is located in central Switzerland in the Emmental Valley. "It's a valley and a town that's full of old-time traditions," says Robert Fuller who has visited Trubschachen on several occasions.

Says Ridge, "Mr. Soltermann liked the idea, so we invited them over to sign the agreement." On August 31 of last year, an agreement between the leaders and townspeople of Midway, Utah, and Trubschachen, Switzerland was signed. The agreement says in part that as "both the citizens of Midway and the citizens of Trubschachen are desirous of increasing international

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relations by mutual exchange of ideas, culture, education and business contacts with each respective city," these citizens are encouraged to "visit each respective sister-city and discover mutual admirations for these Swiss colonies." During the signing of the sister-city agreement event last year, Hans Soltermann presented Mayor Ridge with a Trubschachen flag, and Robert Fuller, who has recently returned from a visit to the Swiss city this month, reports that photographs of Midway, as well as a Robert Duncan print, now hang in Trubschachen's town hall.

Steve Ridge points out that although Trubschachen has much to offer Midway in the way of inspiration for art, architecture and the maintaining of open land, the sister-city relationship is by no means one-sided. "We have a lot to offer them," says Ridge. "We can offer them our pioneer heritage. We're planning on sending them a copy of the sesquicentennial wagon train pictorial."

Robert Fuller who has developed "Swiss Oaks" a condominium complex in Midway, is now working on Zermatt—a resort that includes chalet-style structures with long rows of shuttered windows and steep sloping roofs which are reminiscent of the buildings of Trubschachen.

Although Mayor Ridge has not

yet visited Midway's sister-city, he hopes do to so one day. For now he says he wouldn't mind seeing Midway adopt a few more of the elements its counterpart in Switzerland possesses. He says he would like to see Swiss Days offer more traditionally Swiss activities, such as the driving of the cows down Main Street and a 'stone toss'; he would also like to see a fountain with greens and a cobblestone square built in downtown Midway.

Despite all the excitement that Midway Swiss Days and its sister-city relationship engenders—especially when it comes to tourism in Heber Valley—according to Ridge, Midway's most important resource is its residents. "The people here are dedicated to each other," says Ridge. "They're dedicated to each other and their beliefs. There's a strong sense of community and Swiss Days is evidence of that commitment—it's a community effort and it's somewhat of an anomaly as far as celebrations go."

Our hearty congratulations go out to the community of Midway for its efforts in supporting tradition and encouraging cultural exchange. May the Swiss Days celebration and the city that established it endure another fifty years of small-town growing pains and big-time Labor Day weekend tourism.

Midway Swiss Days 1997 & 13

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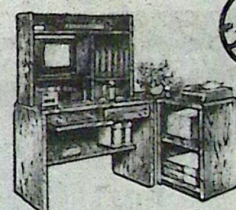
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## A History of Midway, Utah's Swiss Village

A visit to Midway City is very much like taking a trip to a Swiss village nestled in the heart of the Alps—a quality which has made Midway one of the most popular destinations of those seeking the laid back lifestyle of mountain living. A rapidly growing bedroom and resort community just west of Heber City in Wasatch County, Utah, Midway's existence is the result of a turbulent past and remains a living monument to an important part of the area's cultural heritage.

Much different from the city of today, Midway originally came into existence as a combined fortress for early pioneers seeking refuge from possible conflicts with area natives. Hailing, for the most part, from the Provo and American Fork areas of Utah County, the pioneers who called the western part of the Heber Valley home during the mid-1800s settled in two distinct communities located along Snake Creek.

Drawn by the natural hot springs and fertile land, the two small settlements which formed during the winter of 1859, soon grew and established individual identities. What were known as the Upper and Lower Snake Creek settlements—located to the northwest of what is now Midway City—became home to 50 families by the summer of 1861. Although the two communities remained separate, they did work together to construct the area's first community meeting place in 1862, located in the upper settlement, known as Mound City. The lower settlement was also designated as the area's first school, or "teacher's" district.

Over the following years, the pioneers worked to clear the area, constructing irrigation ditches, roads and bridges, while struggling to carve out their place in the valley.

As was true with many of the early settlers making their way across the country, growing tensions with the Native Americans (who had originally occupied the open land) became a potential threat to the settlers. By 1866, the inhabitants of the two communities

felt threatened by the Native Americans who saw the Snake Creek area as their own hunting and trapping territory and plans were made to abandon the communities altogether.

The decision was made by settlement leaders not to flee the area they had come to call home, but instead to band together seeking strength in numbers and construct a communal fortress for the protection of all of the area's inhabitants. That way they would not give-up what they saw as their rights as landowners. Since neither settlement wanted to leave the valley, a compromise was reached to construct a fort "midway" between the two settlements, in the location which is now known as Midway City.

An area for the town square was selected and mapped out. City blocks were then laid out around the perimeter. The construction of 75 side-by-side log cabins created a wall around the new community which was completely self-contained, and the inhabitants were forced to adjust to a confined lifestyle which was run much like a military institution.

The fort was never attacked and a pact signed with the local Native Americans after "The Black Hawk War" in 1868 removed any potential danger and assured the settler's continuing safety. Instead of returning to the original upper and lower Snake Creek settlements following the resolution of the threats, the inhabitants instead gradually laid claim to the lands around the fortress area, which today makes up the core of the city of Midway.

As the community continued to grow, the influence felt by the settlers who had immigrated to the valley from parts of Switzerland began to shape the cultural look and feel of Midway, creating the Swiss flavor the city holds today.

In celebration of the unique Swiss flair which remains at Midway's core, an annual fall celebration, known as Swiss Days, has become the city's trademark and draws artisans, entertainers, and spectators from all over the country.

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# A History of Early Settlers

**GOTTLEIB KOHLER** - "Dad and Mother had the good profitable shoe business over in Switzerland. Well, the people thought they were crazy for coming to this country. They had a good business. They were making a good living, and they were a benefit to the community because Dad and Mother were handy at making shoes. Mother made the upper, which was cloth. And Dad covered them with leather then — that is the sole. And they make a kind of a nice shoe to wear. Dad also made wooden shoes, a lot of them.

"He was a cobbler and people would bring him a pair of shoes that were not worth fixing. Why he'd just tell 'em: 'They're not worth fixin'.' And most of them'd say: 'Well, you just keep them.' Then he'd just cut the top off. The shoe had to be about two sizes larger than the one that he could make by putting a wooden sole on it. Then we took on wood trees and we dried them out.

"He had brought from Switzerland two draw knives that he could just make a nice shaped wooden sole. And then onto that wooden sole he'd tack one of those uppers that were no more good with the sole to wear and maybe he'd patch it a little and then he'd nail the upper with small shingle nails onto this wooden sole. I tell you he did a neat job. He was a good old cobbler to make wooden shoes and those wooden shoes were used not by us alone, but practically every family, that is Swiss people.

"And I think that Brother Kuhn made some wooden shoes, too. He learned cobbling too over in Switzerland. But all of us kids wore 'em and I liked 'em. You were always dry. They were a little noisy, it's true, as you clattered along the floor, but it was a mighty, mighty nice shoe to wear and easy on your feet."

**REED KOHLER** - Reed Kohler tells of an experience of his mother's foster parents. They had located where our farm now is on the west slopes of Midway. With the Indian difficulty, they were compelled to move to the fort and build a cabin on the northwest corner of the fort. As they returned, after the Indian difficulties, to their homestead site, a neighbor threatened to take from them the homestead, or the area where they were homesteading under the Squatters Right and told my mother's foster father they would beat him to Salt Lake in as much as they had a new span of oxen and a new wagon, to file under the then existent Homestead Act. My mother's foster father was very much alarmed because he had had his property even in advance of his neighbor and had cleared much of the land and had farmed it for a number of years before going into the fort, and now upon his return again.

And so he and his good wife planned far into the night just what might be done as the neighbor had threatened to leave the fol-

lowing morning early with his new yoke of oxen and his new wagon. They reached the conclusion that Grandmother Wintch would pack him a lunch and he would leave at three o'clock going up through Snake Creek Canyon and down through Big Cottonwood to Salt Lake on foot as he had no horse to ride and no oxen and no wagon fit for the journey. He walked the first day and reached Salt Lake.

The following morning as the Land Office opened, he went into the Land Office at the opening of its doors and filed under the present Homestead act upon his property. As he came out of the office, from filing about two hours later, his neighbor drove up in front of the land office with his new oxen and his new wagon. And he had beat him by just the two hours.

**DAVID HUFFAKER** - David Simpson Huffaker, was the first white child born in Utah on Oct. 6, 1847. He was born in a covered wagon in a snowstorm on pioneer square one week after his parents arrived in Salt Lake City. In the spring of 1848, his family moved to South Cottonwood, where David grew up. Later, on June 18, 1871, he married Eva Neff, and they were blessed with nine children.

Sometime before coming to Midway in 1877, David and Eva lived in Wanship, where he managed a sawmill. When they arrived in Midway, they homesteaded one hundred sixty acres of land in Stringtown.

David was a carpenter, contractor, and natural born agriculturalist. He brought the first thrasher and self-binder into the Valley. Half of the town of Midway came out to see him use it.

Besides doing custom thrashing and carpentry work, David helped build the railroad from Provo to Heber City. That is the track that the Heber Creeper runs on today.

Life was never very easy on the farm in those days, as indicated by Eva in the following statement: "When we first came to Midway, there were so many grasshoppers that I had to sweep a path to the creek, (that's where they got their drinking water) because I hated to step on them."

David was a very trusting man and believed that every man's word was his bond. One day, an Indian came and asked to borrow his gun and said that he would return it to him in so many moons. David gave him the gun, and was laughed at by a friend who said, "You'll never see that gun again." However, at the stated time, the gun was returned, and David and the Indian became very good friends.

David died on March 12, 1903, of diphtheria, and Eva lived forty years longer, passing away in April, 1942. They left behind a great posterity worthy of their pioneer heritage.

Midway Swiss Days 1997 8/15

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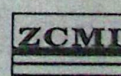
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# A Journey to Memorial Hill

My grandmother lives in a small town in Utah called Midway. The highlight of my summer every year was visiting her, and the highlight of a trip to Grandma's was a trip up the Memorial Hill.

The trip to my grandma's was long and boring and always became a contest. The winner of our contest was the first one to see the Memorial Hill, and we would start looking for it when we were still an hour away from my grandma's house. It would come into view usually when we were about ten minutes away from grandma's, but there were times when we couldn't see it at all through thick fog or heavy rain or snow.

The top of the hill was due north of my grandma's long driveway, and there were two basic ways to get to it. Between my grandmother's house and the hill were several fields and pastures, which were filled with fences and ditches, all of which were perfect for a young boy's adventures. There was also a road that went around these fields for those days when we felt like a nice walk, or when my mother decided it was time for us to be careful.

The walk to the bottom of the hill took between fifteen and thirty minutes, depending on whether or not you took the road. We had three ways of getting

to the top. First, of course, is the road that spirals slowly and lazily around the hill, gradually sloping upward until, after going around the hill four times, it reaches the top. It was only on the most lazy days of summer, when a cool breeze was blowing that we would embark on the trek, for the road was about five times as long as any of the trails.

The trails were the second way we got up the hill, and for a long time, they were the only way my mother would allow me to go. The entire hill was laced with trails crawling sharply up the sides. These trails were steep and treacherous because the rocks were so loose. In many places the whole trail was nothing more than a pile of gravel running down the hill. It wasn't so dangerous that a careful young boy couldn't climb it safely, and I can only remember one occasion when anyone was hurt. Once, though, my older sister slipped and fell and scraped her knee badly. Watching the blood flow freely as she limped back to grandma's, I cursed the hill and swore I would never come back to it.

Even so, I returned again the very next day to that magical hill that I always considered my very own.

As the trail met the road, it would slope upward until, for about the last ten feet, it was almost a sheer cliff, and there we would test our skills by seeing how fast we could climb up it. On the other side of the road, the trail continued to wind upwards, twisting in and out among the bushes and rocks, until we lost sight of it.

Many times, though, we followed the road until another trail crossed it, and then we would continue up the hill until we hit the road again, and then we would switch again to another trail.

The third way to get to the top was to just go straight up the side. It could be done only if you crossed the fields between the hill and my grandmother's house because only that side of the hill was free of the dense growth of bushes and willows that grew on the north side.

As a small child I could only watch from the window of grandma's house as my two older brothers would wind their way slowly across the fields, over ditches, and under fences, all the time carefully avoiding any of the pastures containing horses or cows.

When I turned eight, I was finally allowed to go on the trek with my brothers, and it became an incredible adventure to run across the fields and jump

the wide, deep irrigation ditches. It never occurred to me that the field might belong to someone else, and that I might be trespassing. I was always too concerned with my adventure.

Climbing the sides was like threading your way through a gigantic maze, because the entire side of the hill was dotted with waist-high thorn bushes and wide cactus patches. I had to step on a cactus plant only once to learn to avoid those fiery needles.

On one occasion, my brothers and I raced my uncle up the hill. He gave us a ten minute head start from my grandma's house. He drove as we ran all the way across the fields and up the side of the hill. We beat him by about thirty seconds and because we did we felt like we could rule the entire world from our little hill.

The top of the hill was like a sacred shrine that was everything kids love. It was a place not designed for adults, a place where even our own parents seemed like aliens.

On top of the hill was a memorial that gave it its name. It was enclosed by a white, brick wall about as tall as I was, with a bench around the inside of it that conveniently let us climb onto the wall. In the middle was a towering white flag-



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pole that had at one time a bronze plaque embedded in each side of its large, hexagonal base. There were also miniature towers spaced evenly along the wall, and these had also once had plaques on their inner sides.

These plaques had contained a list of all the people from Wasatch County who had died in one war or another, but when I was still very young someone had broken the plaques out of the walls and stolen them. This act had left large chunks of white brick laying around and gave the whole memorial the look and feel of an old ruined castle.

From the top of the walls you could see the whole world. You could see the small lizards crawling around on the warm rocks. You could see the hawks flying high overhead. You could see from the deepest valley to the widest lake to the highest mountain. Although our hill was probably the lowest one in the area, it seemed to tower above everything else when one peered from the top of those ancient, ruined walls.

As you looked around, the breeze would bring to you the cool scent of sagebrush, or maybe the scent of the cows in the pastures below, but always the breeze would be there to pull at your hair and your jacket, making each person feel like his own Bilbo Baggins, and always the breeze was cool against your skin.

Although the breeze was cool, the sun was always hot. It was always beating down on us as if we were in the

Sahara Desert. We didn't care though. We ran carelessly and nimbly across the huge logs that surrounded the dusty parking lot. We jumped from one to another as if they were giant balance beams, and sometimes we would just lie on them, feeling the cool, rough wood on one cheek, and smooth heat of the sun on the other.

After we had exhausted ourselves (which usually took no more than about half an hour), we would go back down. We always took the shortest trail we could, the Bunny Trail, if we took a trail at all. We always went as fast as we could, and our mouths would all be watering at the thought of the Kool-Aid and chocolate chip, oatmeal cookie my grandmother always had waiting for us when we returned. After our Kool-Aid, we would tell the older folks of our day's adventures, and anxiously, begin planning for tomorrow.

Finally, the time would come for us to leave. As we stared out the rear window of our car, first my grandma's house would fall out of sight, obscured by trees and other houses; next would be her barn, and then finally, a long time later, we would lose sight of our Hill.

Written by Paul R. Moon age 14  
Grandson of Vera Reed

Midway Swiss Days 1997 # 17

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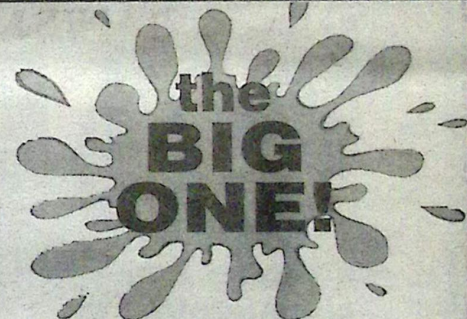
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# Midway Hot Springs

One only need look around to realize that the Midway area is graced with some of the most spectacular natural beauty in Utah. But in addition to the breathtaking backdrop provided by Mt. Timpanogos, the serenity offered by the nearby Wasatch Mountain State Park, and the peaceful laid-back lifestyle inherent to a rural community, Midway is also home to the "famous hot springs," a natural marvel which have drawn many tourists and locals to their depths. Hot springs hold mystical healing powers, according to legend, and the Indians who inhabited the West reserved the hot springs as sanctuaries of peace, where combative tribes were not allowed to fight, as the springs were regarded as magical, sacred grounds overflowing with the power of "good medicine."

Hotsprings are known by many new age enthusiasts as psychological and physiological sources of spiritual growth and evolution. Whatever the powers they may or may not hold, a soak in a hot-spring is a sure way to rejuvenate both the body and the spirit. Legal access to the city's springs are available only through the two existing resorts open to tourists as well as locals. The Homestead Resort, located near Wasatch



Mountain State Park, is the product of the Swiss born immigrant Simon Schnieter, whose farming efforts were foiled by the springs existence on his property. Schnieter turned his loss into a visitor's gain, creating an upscale resort which is now home to a natural mineral bath, whose temperature ranges from 95 to 100 degrees year-round. Access is available to the resort's guests

and several options for passes for locals are available throughout the resort. The Mountain SpaResort, located within the city itself, is home to both outdoor and indoor pools as well as soaking tubs. Temperatures range between 80 degrees at the spa's indoor pool to 100 degrees in some of the resort's outdoor soaking pools. The resort still contains some of its original structures, erected in the late

nineteenth century. The spa is available on a one time use basis and year round passes are also available. If you just want to view some of the natural springs, take a drive down Warm Springs Road near Wasatch Mountain State Park. A drive down many of Midway's country roads on a chilly morning will reveal dozens of the hot springs as they release steam into the air.

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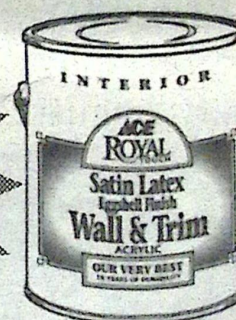
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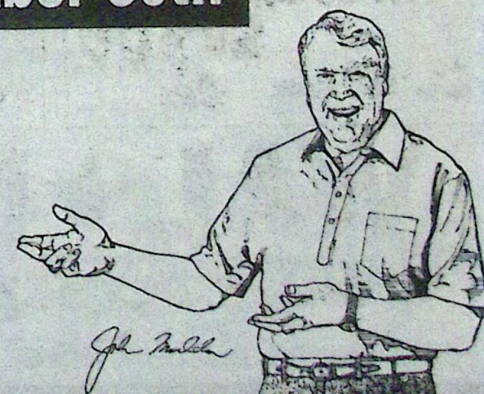
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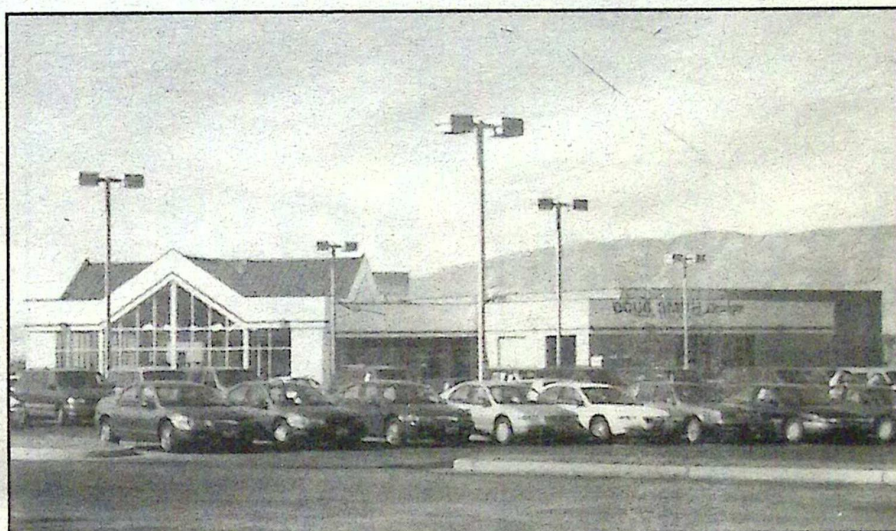
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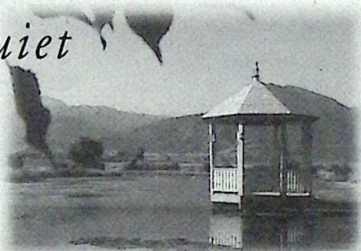
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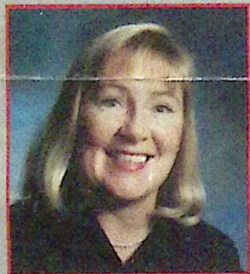
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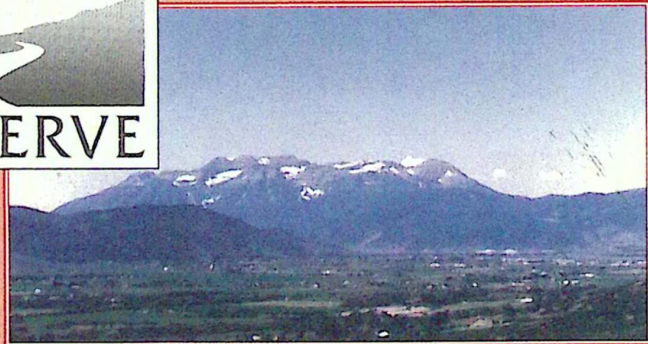
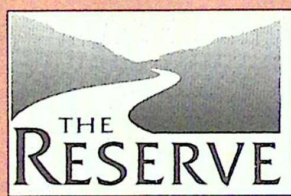
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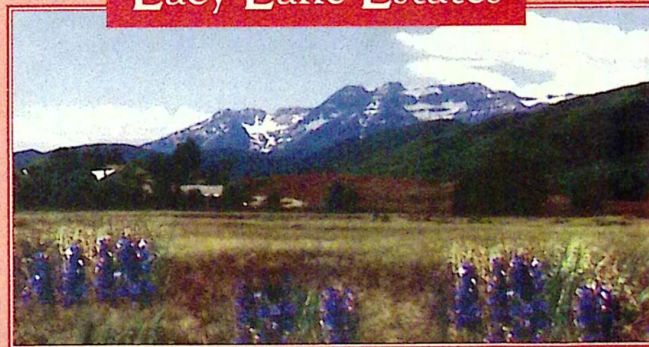
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